



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 4/15/2004

**GAIN Report Number:** CA4026

## Canada

## Honey

## Proposal to Ease Honeybee Import Restrictions 2004

**Approved by:**

Hugh Maginnis  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

George Myles

---

**Report Highlights:**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has published a regulatory proposal to ease Canadian import restrictions on U.S. live honeybees. Presently, Canada accepts U.S. live bees only from Hawaii. The proposal would allow the import of U.S. honeybee queens, with their attendant bees, from all states. If the rule is finalized, the continental U.S. bee industry would regain access to the Canadian live bee market possibly in time for the 2004 spring season.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Ottawa [CA1]  
[CA]

Summary: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has published a draft regulatory proposal to ease Canadian import restrictions on live honeybees. Presently, Canada accepts U.S. live bees only from Hawaii. The proposal would allow the import of U.S. honeybee queens, with their attendant bees, from all continental U.S. states. The prohibition for importing any other honeybees from the continental U.S. will remain in effect. There is a 30 day public comment period. If the proposal is approved and published in final form, it would mean that the continental U.S. bee industry would regain access to the Canadian live bee market possibly in time for the 2004 spring season. The potential market value is about \$1-2 million dollars.

#### Background:

Canada has prohibited the importation of honeybees from the continental U.S. since the outbreak of varroa mite in U.S. honeybees 1987. Canada's Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations were continually renewed and effective for three or four years but in 1999 were renewed with the proviso that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) would review annually the health status of honeybees in Canada to ensure that continuing the ban was appropriate. Since the last extension of the prohibition in 2000, the health status of Canadian honeybees has deteriorated and currently, treatment resistant varroa mites are known to exist in at least seven (7) provinces and antibiotic-resistant American Foul Brood occurs in western Canada with the exception of Saskatchewan.

Difficulties were encountered by beekeepers in obtaining the necessary number of honeybees for the 2003 spring season due to the deterioration in the health of Canadian honeybees, over-wintering losses and the limited availability of replacement honeybees from Hawaii, New Zealand and Australia. A risk assessment that was recently undertaken by the CFIA has determined that the importation of honeybee queens from the continental U.S. poses a lower risk for the contamination of domestic Canadian honeybees than does the importation of packaged bees.

Based on the declining health status of Canadian honeybees and the results of the risk assessment conducted by the CFIA, the majority of the provinces and the provincial beekeeping associations have changed their position and now support the import of honeybee queens and their attendants from the continental U.S. A concern raised by some industry representatives is that Canadian honey production and crop pollination will suffer further decline if the honeybee population is not revived quickly.

The provinces and provincial beekeeping associations are not unanimous in their positions with respect to this proposed regulation. The issue of information sharing between the federal and provincial governments under their respective privacy legislation has been the key point of discussion in recent consultation and correspondence. Although this regulation would re-open the Canadian border to the importation of honeybee queens and their attendants from the continental U.S., the provinces have their own legislation to regulate their beekeeping industries and to control the entry of honeybees. Existing provincial legislation enables any concerned province to prohibit the entry of unwanted honeybees into the province. Because of disease concerns and the differing health status of bees in different provinces, the movement of honeybees between a number of provinces is controlled. However, the nature of the commodity and some industry members have made this control difficult which factors have resulted in the entry of a disease or pest into a province.

Based on the findings of the CFIA risk assessment, the support of the majority of provinces and the changing positions of Canadian stakeholders, the CFIA believes it is appropriate

at this time to allow the importation of honeybee queens and their attendants (not packaged bees) from the continental United States.

The following is an excerpt of the proposed regulation as it appeared in the Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 138, No. 15 — April 10, 2004. For more information and the full regulatory impact statement, go to [www.canadagazette.gc.ca](http://www.canadagazette.gc.ca)

### PROPOSED REGULATORY TEXT

Notice is hereby given that the Solicitor General of Canada styled Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, pursuant to section 14 of the *Health of Animals Act*, propose to make the annexed *Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations, 2004*.

Interested persons may make representations with respect to the proposed Regulations within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice (April 10, 2004). All such representations must cite the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, and the date of publication of this notice and be sent to Dr. Samira Belaïssaoui, Animal Health and Production Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, 59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0Y9 (tel.: (613) 225-2342, extension 4005; fax: (613) 228-6630).

### HONEYBEE IMPORTATION PROHIBITION REGULATIONS, 2004

#### PROHIBITION

1. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall import any bee of the genus *Apis*, commonly known as honeybees, into Canada or any Canadian port from the United States, except from the State of Hawaii, during the period beginning on the date of the coming into force of these Regulations and ending on December 31, 2005.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the import into Canada or any Canadian port of a honeybee queen, with its attendant bees, from the United States in accordance with a permit issued under section 160 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

#### REPEAL

2. The *Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations, 1999* are repealed.

#### COMING INTO FORCE

3. These Regulations come into force on the day on which they are registered (made final).

End Excerpt

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: The FAS/Ottawa website is now accessible through the U.S. Embassy homepage. To view the website, log onto <http://www.usembassycanada.gov>; click on Embassy Ottawa offices, then Foreign Agricultural Service. The FAS/Ottawa office can be reached via e-mail at: [agottawa@usda.gov](mailto:agottawa@usda.gov)